

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2000

Docket No. R2000-1

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORY OF DOUGLAS CARLSON
(DFC/USPS-66)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its response to the following interrogatory of Douglas Carlson: DFC/USPS-66, filed on March 13, 2000.

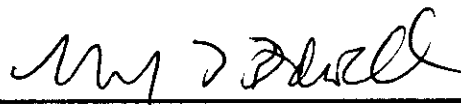
The interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking



Michael T. Tidwell

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April 6, 2000

**RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO INTERROGATORY OF
DOUGLAS F. CARLSON**

DFC/USPS-66 Please refer to the response to DFC/USPS-46.

- a. Please explain why FIM "D," rather than FIM "C" is used for IBI mail.
- b. Please confirm that AFCS machines sort FIM "D" mail to the stacker for typewritten mail, not the stacker for pre-bar-coded mail. If you do not confirm, please explain and provide the basis for your answer. If you do confirm, please explain why FIM "D" mail is not sorted to the stacker for pre-bar-coded mail.
- c. Please confirm that AFCS machines sort FIM "A" and FIM "C" mail to the stacker for pre-bar-coded mail. If you do not confirm, please explain.
- d. Please confirm that the AFCS machine normally sprays an orange RBCS ID tag on the back of typewritten and script mail but not on pre-bar-coded mail destined for the stacker for pre-bar-coded mail.
- e. Please confirm that the AFCS sprays an RBCS ID tag on the back of FIM "D" mail. If you do not confirm, please explain and provide the basis for your response. If you do confirm, please explain the purpose of spraying an RBCS ID tag on FIM "D" mail.
- f. Please confirm that the RCR will not use a wide-area bar code in resolving an address and instead will resolve the actual typewritten or printed address.

RESPONSE:

a. The FIM "D" markings were originally used for Courtesy Reply Mail (CRM) that did not contain a ZIP+4 barcode. When the DMM was revised to require that CRM have a proper ZIP+4 barcode, FIM "D" markings were no longer needed. As a result, that marking was designated as the proper FIM marking for IBI mail pieces.

FIM "C" markings, on the other hand, are used to designate Business Reply Mail (BRM) pieces that contain a preprinted BRM ZIP+4 barcode as per DMM 55 Section C100.5.2. IBI mail pieces do not contain FIM "C" markings because they are not BRM.

b. Confirmed. The AFCS currently sorts FIM "D" mail to bins 5 and 6 along with the "Imprint (Machine Printed)" mail pieces. FIM "D" is not sorted to bins 1 and 2 with the FIM "A" (prebarcoded CRM) and FIM "C" (prebarcoded BRM) mail pieces because FIM "D" mail pieces are not necessarily prebarcoded. In addition, the next downstream operation for the mail sorted to bins 1 and 2 is the automation outgoing primary operation. The sort plans for the automation outgoing primary operations have been structured to accommodate FIM "A" and "C" remittance mail processing.

**RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO INTERROGATORY OF
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RESPONSE to DFC/USPS-66 (Continued)

c. Confirmed. The AFCS currently sorts prebarcoded FIM "A" and FIM "C" mail to bins 1 and 2.

d. Confirmed.

e. Confirmed. As the AFCS-ISS is currently set up, an RBCS ID tag would be sprayed on the back of a FIM "D" mail piece. Depending on whether it is aligned by its "trailing edge" or "leading edge", the mail piece would then be sorted to either bin 5 or 6, respectively. The mail from these bins would then be routed to the MLOCR-ISS for further processing.

The MLOCR-ISS can detect the presence of an RBCS ID tag before it sprays an ID tag on the back of a given mail piece. When the MLOCR-ISS determines that an ID tag is already present, the information from that tag is "linked" to the corresponding mail piece.

If the mail piece contains a readable barcode, the MLOCR-ISS prebarcode detector interprets that barcode and the mail piece is sorted to the proper bin. This mail piece is not processed through RBCS. Therefore, the ID tag is never really used.

If the mail piece does not contain a readable barcode, the MLOCR-ISS attempts to read the address and apply a corresponding barcode. If the MLOCR-ISS cannot interpret the address, the mail piece is processed through the RBCS system. In this case, the ID tag is used to "link" the mail piece to the RBCS result.

f. It is confirmed that the RCR system will attempt to use image recognition technology, not a Wide Area Bar Code Reader (WABCR), to resolve a typewritten or machine printed address for mail pieces that could not be barcoded by the Multi Line Optical Character Reader - Input Sub System (MLOCR-ISS).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the Rules of Practice.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael T. Tidwell", written over a horizontal line.

Michael T. Tidwell

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